

The DMPS International Baccalaureate Bulletin

DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Applications Strongly Encouraged By

March 15, 2013

Central Academy



DMPS IB Students Take Action and the IB Diploma Programme

By Dr. Simone Alekno, DMPS IB and World Languages Coordinator

The January/February IB bulletin highlights two important aspects of the International Baccalaureate program in the DMPS: action as a result of reflective inquiry and the IB Diploma Programme.

At the heart of our DMPS IB programs is the expectation that student inquiry into real life problems will lead to students independently taking action in their own lives and in the community. In the Primary Years Programme, this is referred to as "action". In the Middle Years Programme this is referred to as "community and service", and in the Diploma Programme this is referred to as

The DMPS IB Diploma Programme

The DMPS district is the first and only district to offer the world renowned Diploma Programme [DP] in Iowa. The DP is an outstanding college preparatory program that starts in 11th grade and that is offered at Central Academy to any student who is willing to make this significant commitment. Students do not need to be in the gifted and talented program to attend. Students do need to be in good academic standing and should take rigorous courses in 9th and 10th grades.

Much research has demonstrated that regardless of socio-economic status and background, students who participate in the DP are more likely to obtain a degree and

both "action" and "service". Please see the many examples of action and service in this bulletin.

For the last couple of months, we have been hard at work recruiting students for the IB Diploma Programme, which begins in 11th grade and which is the only one in existence in the State of Iowa. In January, Tamara Pfantz, the Diploma Programme Coordinator at Central Academy, and Crista Carlile, Director of Central Academy, organized an informational meeting for all district sophomores and parents. If you interested in more information or an application, then please contact tamara.pfantz@dmschools.org.

typically outperform other students in college. Colleges may reward DP students with scholarships, college credit, and higher acceptance rates. All three Iowa state universities award IB credit. Currently, we are forming a cohort of middle school students and parents who are interested in pursuing the DP as juniors. The cohort members will receive academic advising and support in anticipation of starting the DP. If you are interested in joining the Pre-DP cohort, contact Dr. Alekno at 242-8504. Central Academy is still accepting applications from sophomores for the Fall of 2013. Please contact Tamara Pfantz for more information at tamara.pfantz@dmschools.org.

January/February
2013 IB Highlight:

Action

**"Successful inquiry
may lead to
action, initiated by
the student as a
result of the
learning process."**

-IBO

To learn more about the DMPS IB Programme please contact:

Dr. Simone Alekno
IB and World Languages
Coordinator
Des Moines Public Schools
901 Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa, 50309
simone.alekno@dmschools.org
515-242-8504

Bulletin Editor:
Olivia Howe (Hoover IB
Coordinator)



Meredith Middle School students using boxtops as math tools to calculate patterns



Boxtops for Education Frame Math Skills at Meredith

By Laurie Sprinkle, Meredith IB Coordinator

“How can I contribute to my community through mathematics?” is the unit question for a classroom of students learning about patterns in mathematics.

These students are involved in a service project for the Meredith school community. As students bring in their Boxtops for Education, the math class is learning job skills, following directions, patterns, and planning for the future of all students in

Meredith.

These students will collect, sort, count, and prepare the boxtops to send in at the end of the school year. In previous years, Meredith has been able to earn useful supplies for students, like the very camera that took these pictures! The students will use this experience to increase their content knowledge and communication skills.

Thank you Mrs. Barnhizer's class for serving our school!

Student Action: Dollar Doing Good

By Allison Woodward-Chartier, Merrill IB Coordinator

In Merrill Middle School's sixth-grade science classes, Mr. Hammond and Mrs. Ryerson posed this question: How much good can you do with one dollar?

To allow students to respond to this question, each sixth-grade student was given one dollar with the charge to pay it forward in some way. Students were encouraged to find creative ways to increase their dollar in order to take action and “do some good” in the community.

On January 2, the students presented their projects to their classes. There was an overwhelming response to the project, and the students raised **\$6,236.59**, donated **1,736** items, and devoted **44** hours to various organizations. In all, approximately **35** organizations benefitted from the students' projects.

Both teachers and students found the project rewarding. “The students did a tremendous amount of good, and they all should be proud of their work, Mr. Hammond said.



Students at Merrill Middle School learn to pay it forward by taking on the challenge of “How much good can you do with one dollar?”



Diamond McDaniel shows off her costume she created for "la señora" the lady. Coby Sanchez (left) and Tommy Rounds are in the background also creating a costume.

Park Avenue Spanish Students Perform at "Passport to IB" Night on February 20th

By Abby Pudenz, Park Avenue Spanish Teacher

Fourth graders at Park Avenue Elementary re-enacted a popular Hispanic children's song named "Cucú".

Students worked in teams of four or five and designated roles and made props to bring this song about a frog to life. Not only did fourth grade students re-enact the song in Spanish class, but they practiced it accompanied with instruments in music class.

Students performed "Cucú" at Park Avenue's Passport to IB Night, Wednesday,

February 20, 2013.

Passport to I.B. Night was an open house forum with ALL GRADES showcasing student work in their classrooms as well as artwork in the library. Each grade gave a performance in the gym! Many parents and students attended and got their "passports" stamped as they journeyed between student-led conferences, a parent organized book fair, student performances, and the art show. Pizza, lemonade and brownies were served in the cafeteria! Park Avenue had a great celebration for its IB students and parents.

Park Avenue Fifth Graders Start Ambassadors Club to be Active in the Community

By Cindy Slinger, Park Avenue IB Coordinator

What an exciting year at Park Avenue Elementary School! The staff wanted to allow all fifth grade students the opportunity to be involved in making a difference in their school community, so our fifth grade team; Libbie Willert, Ben Bates and Jeff Richer with the guidance of Anita Smith, Dean of Students, established the Park Avenue Ambassadors, a service learning group for students.

Students volunteered for a variety of tasks that would benefit the whole school community, such as morning announcers, new student tour guides, office helpers, recycling, and birthday and panther pride messengers, just to name a few. The staff wanted to give students the opportunity to utilize the skills learned through units of study throughout the PYP journey.

By being ambassadors, students are embodying the IB Learner Profile traits by becoming risk-takers, who try new things such as, making morning announcements; they are becoming effective communicators by having to work cooperatively to teach each other how various jobs work; and they are growing in confidence and are developing leadership skills. Our fifth grade students are enthusiastic about this service learning opportunity and are excited when it is their chance to be an ambassador for the week no matter what their task is.

Stowe “Action” Gets Physical

By Michelle Anderson-Kunz,
Stowe IB Coordinator

Examples of students taking action to make a difference can be found everywhere at Stowe lately. Students are taking this essential element of IB to heart.

On Monday, January 28, the Stowe gym was packed as spectators came to watch the fourth and fifth grade students challenge the Stowe teachers in a game of basketball. This game was the fourth grade students' idea.

The fourth graders had been out playing a game of football and several

classmates came by to cheer them on. When recess was over, students reflected upon how much the cheering and support had helped them feel valued and supported. They decided they wanted to take that feeling and extend it to the students at Sandy Hook Elementary.

Students decided that a student versus teachers basketball game was the perfect way to raise money for their cause. The students had practiced and were coached by Stowe PE teacher, Jerry Sanford, while the staff were coached and led by art teacher, Terry Voss.



Stowe students take on teachers at basketball game that benefited Sandy Hook Elementary students in Newtown, CT

Middle Years Programme Technology Teachers Take on Role of Student

By Olivia Howe, Hoover IB Coordinator

Technology teachers from four Middle Years Programme schools took their turn in classroom desks last week when 20 DMPS staff members participated in a two-day technology training workshop.

The sessions, led by an MYP practitioner from Coco Beach, FL, provided new understanding and practice with the IB Design Cycle, an inquiry model that all MYP technology classes use to guide and assess students.

At its core, the Design Cycle supports learners in developing four skill sets – Investigating, Planning, Creating, and Evaluating – that guide the process of designing a product or outcome. Technology instructors who teach a varied range of courses, including Family and Consumer Sciences, Engineering, Newspaper and Yearbook, and Industrial Technology, all use the Design Cycle as a framework for instruction in MYP schools.

Workshop participants put their own skills to the test in a friendly competition applying the Design Cycle as a process to create towers from spaghetti and marshmallows. After the fun introduction, teachers collaborated to create content-specific design challenges that support student development of design skills.

“Action - 4. An act of will” – Merriam Webster Dictionary

By Kisha Barnes, Goodrell IB Coordinator

A seventh grade (MYP Year 2) Advisory class has taken up the mission of acting on their learning about Goodrell’s Respect Day. In the spirit of the IB Learner profile traits of being caring, principled, and risk takers, a group of students decided to perform random acts of kindness in the community – shoveling a neighbor’s sidewalks, paying for the order of a following car in a drive-thru, and decorating a student’s locker for their birthday are a few of the privately celebrated deeds.

“If you do something nice for someone, and you don’t get something in return, that makes it truly kind,” Destinee Wheeler said.

Clayton Mentzer shared that, “...what makes random acts of kindness real is that they aren’t planned.”

These students authentically demonstrate the intention of IB Learner Profile traits. Recognizing, acting, and reflecting on the development of character attributes we wish to see in the world.